

CITY OF MIAMI BEACH
Office of the City Manager
Letter to Commission No. 060-2004



To: Mayor David Dermer and
Members of the City Commission

Date: March 11, 2004

From: Jorge M. Gonzalez
City Manager

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jorge", written over the printed name of the City Manager.

Subject: AMENDING THE NEWSRACK ORDINANCE

The Public Works Department is reviewing the current ordinance governing the permitting, location, and maintenance of portable newspaper sales racks (newsracks). In the past three years the number of newracks on the streets of Miami Beach has grown to over 1,500. Many of these newsracks are not permitted and/or do not meet the requirements of the ordinance.

A comprehensive on-site inventory has been completed. This inventory process identified a number of problems with the current standards and enforcement procedures. In reviewing the ordinance, some of these problems will be resolved and procedures more defined. Specifically the review will:

- Update and improve the process for permitting newsracks.
- Update the locations and quantity of newracks allowed in certain locations.
- Define what type of publications qualify for distribution through newracks.
- Provide a more defined process for removing a non-permitted newsrack.
- Provide a more defined process for removing a damaged newsrack that is creating a safety hazard.

A working group consisting of staff, publishers, and citizens are working on updating the ordinance. Once a working document has been developed it will be distributed to all interested parties for comment and suggestions. The final draft ordinance will then be presented to City Commission for consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized "JMG" or similar, written over the printed initials.

JMG/RCM/FHB

c: Robert C. Middaugh, Assistant City Manager
Fred H. Beckmann, Public Works Director